



Superior Court of the State of Washington for the County of King

June 25, 2021

Mr. Jesús Aguirre
Superintendent
Seattle Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Ave N
Seattle, WA 98109

RE: City Hall Park

Dear Superintendent Aguirre:

We are writing out of deep concern for the safety of jurors, Courthouse employees, the general public, and those who find themselves unhoused and sheltering in and around City Hall Park.

As you know, conditions in and around the King County Courthouse vicinity, including City Hall Park, have been in a critical, unsafe and unhealthy stage for years. As a matter of last resort to address these issues, we are requesting that you close City Hall Park.

Recent Seattle Times articles ([Fatal stabbing prompts proposed legislation to condemn Seattle's City Hall Park | The Seattle Times](#)) have graphically recounted some of the Park conditions. Our Court has repeatedly met with park officials, City leaders and law enforcement representatives to request urgent assistance to address these conditions. Little has changed, other than conditions becoming even more dire.

Now, after a killing, the abandonment of a toddler at the park's encampment, jurors fearful of coming to the courthouse to fulfill their civic duty, employee resignations attributed directly to these unsafe conditions, daily assaults of persons coming to and from the Courthouse, unsanitary conditions and constant harassing behavior, we are urging the City to act swiftly and immediately close the park.

We are hopeful that the City will make alternative housing and other arrangements for current park residents.

The conditions at City Hall Park threaten our community's access to justice. People are unable to travel to and from the Courthouse safely. It puts at risk our Court's ability to fulfill our Constitutional duty to serve the people of Seattle and King County, including those who are residents of this area.

We would welcome a meeting with you and other City leaders to discuss ways to restore this area of Seattle so that business and all community members will be safe.

However, our request remains for you to close City Hall Park without delay.

Sincerely,

Judge James (Jim) Rogers, Presiding Judge
Judge LeRoy McCullough, Co-Chair, Security Committee
Judge Chad Allred, Co-Chair, Security Committee
Judge Sean O'Donnell, Security Committee
Judge Catherine Shaffer, Security Committee
Judge Matthew Williams, Security Committee
Judge Cindi Port, Security Committee
Judge Susan Amini, Security Committee
Judge Andrea Darvas, Security Committee
Judge Michael Ryan, Security Committee
Judge Kristin Richardson, Security Committee
Judge Julie Spector, Security Committee
Judge Michael Scott
Judge Mafe Rajul
Judge Marshall Ferguson
Judge John McHale
Judge Douglas North
Judge Sandra Widlan
Judge Annette Messitt
Judge Averil Rothrock
Judge John Ruhl
Judge Steve Rosen
Judge Suzanne Parisien
Judge David Steiner
Judge Josephine Wiggs-Martin
Judge Ketu Shah
Judge Regina Cahan
Judge Nichole Phelps
Judge Karen Donohue
Judge Julia Garratt
Judge Brian McDonald
Judge Janet Helson
Judge Elizabeth Berns
Commissioner Henry Judson
Commissioner Brad Moore
Commissioner Hollis Holman
Commissioner Jennie Laird

Cc:

Mayor Jenny Durkan
Councilmember Lisa Herbold
Councilmember Tammy Morales
Councilmember Kshama Sawant
Councilmember Alex Pedersen

Councilmember Debora Juarez
Councilmember Dan Strauss
Councilmember Andrew Lewis
Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda
Councilmember Lorena González
King County Council
King County Executive Dow Constantine
Megan Pederson, OLR, King County
Interim Chief of Police Adrian Diaz
King County Prosecuting Attorney
King County Office of Public Defense
Executive Director Lisa Howard, Alliance for Pioneer Square
Executive Director Monisha Singh, Chinatown-ID Business Improvement Area
Jon Scholes, President and CEO of the Downtown Seattle Association
Rachel Smith, Seattle Metro Chamber President & CEO